

TACHINUS FLAVOLIMBATUS PAND. (COL.: STAPHYLINIDAE) IN S.E. LONDON — Fairly recently I detected a male of this rarity taken in 1958 (15 November) among plant litter in my former garden at Blackheath. I doubtless passed it at the time as the common *T. marginellus* F., though long aware of the possibility of its occurrence in my area. However, a few years ago my friend Alex Williams, who had just taken *T. flavolimbatus* in the Channel Islands, most kindly gave me a British female with the data 'Egypt Bay, High Halstow, North Kent/K.C. Side' — which prompted a closer inspection of my material and consequent discovery of the Blackheath specimen.

The distinctions are fully described and illustrated by the late W.O. Steel in adding the species to our list (1961, *Entom.*: 77-8). The very clear and sharply defined yellow borders to the thorax and elytra, more conspicuous than in *marginellus*, facilitate recognition; but the important structural characters, in both male and female, lie in the sexual modifications of the apical segments of the hind body.

The British headquarters of this Mediterranean species are in north-west Kent, where a number of examples were collected in two localities in the Gravesend district, 1939-41 — but again, mistaken originally for *T. marginellus* (Steel, *loc. cit.*). Outside this general area, in which it seems not to have been found since except by the late K.C. Side as above, I know of it only from Essex (Hammond) and Cambridge (Steel, 1 ex.). *T. flavolimbatus* may still be overlooked by some, but it is clearly having difficulty in extending its range here. It may be worth noting that the majority, if not all, of our specimens occurred between October and March, so it could perhaps prove to be a winter species like *T. subterraneus* L. A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

CAMPAEA MARGARITATA L. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) AND ITS SECOND BROOD.— The possible existence of a second generation of this species in Kent has a long history reaching back into the last century.

J.M. Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, 3: 1981) suggests the occurrence of a partial second generation in *some* years, and B. Skinner (*Moths of the British Isles*, 1984) widens the range to 'southern England' and *most* years. My note (*Ent. Rec.* 96: 126) suggests it probably occurs every year at Dartford, although on somewhat tenuous evidence, for despite operating my garden m.v. trap from 1969, no *margaritata* were noticed during the six years from 1969 to 1974, nor in 1977. In 1975 and 1976 *margaritata* made a token appearance in late August, and several specimens were noted in each of the years 1978 to 1981, but that marked the end of an era in N.W. Kent, the years of the odd sighting of an apparently second generation *margaritata*.

In 1982 a dozen specimens were seen from 11 August until 15 September, and in 1983 the figure had risen to twenty from 14 August to